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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10004450-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Richard O. Hilson, et al.

Serial No.: 09/919,073

Examiner: Arlen Soderquist

Filing Date: July 30, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1743

Title: SAMPLE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHODS

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- () under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)
- (X) under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
(X) a \$180.00 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- () under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:
() Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and
() a \$180.00 processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p).
(Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge to Deposit Account **50-1078** the sum of \$180.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account **50-1078** pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.

(X) Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449. References identified with an asterisk (*) were disclosed in Patent Application No. _____ filed _____, now U. S. Patent No. _____, and, as such, copies thereof are not included pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.98(d).

() A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individuals(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date of Deposit: Jan. 5, 2004

Typed Name: Theodore J. Leitereg

Signature: Theodore J. Leitereg

Respectfully submitted,

Richard O. Hilson, et al.

By Theodore J. Leitereg

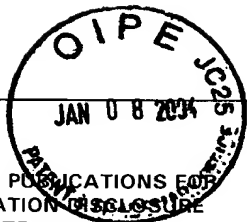
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PATENT APPLICATION

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449

LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

10004450-1

SERIAL NO.

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APPLICANT

Richard O. Hilson, et al.

FILING DATE

July 30, 2001

GROUP

1743

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	*	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME
	A	6,422,249	Jul. 23, 2002	Certa et al.
	B	6,391,623	May 21, 2002	Besemer et al.
	C	6,352,861	Mar. 5, 2002	Copeland et al.
	D	6,420,169	Jul. 16, 2002	Read et al.
	E	0,174,884	Nov. 28, 2002	Certa et al.
	F	0,006,359	Jan. 17, 2002	Mathies et al.

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO

OTHER REFERENCES (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

* Copies of these references are not enclosed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(d). (See accompanying IDS)